THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In some protected areas this problem is being experienced. The State Governments within whose jurisdiction the management of National Parks and Sanctuaries and maintenance of the law and order falls, are taking measures to tackle the situation. Assistance is being extended to them whenever asked for. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Ecodevelopment in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves is also being implemented to reduce the dependence of the local people on the forests and improve their quality of living.

Setting up of Eco-Tribunal

2394. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Eco-Tribunal as an effective measure to deal with pollution and related cases in the field of ecology;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal finalised and its present status;

(c) whether Government are aware of the reported criticism that the proposal Tribunal leaves out pollution causing Government units as per the assigned scope of authority; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon and how the such units would be dealt with ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) A Bill to provide for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling hazardous substance and for the establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accident, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 18th August, 1992. The power of exemption provided in the Bill in respect of certain categories, including government bodies/public sectors, is permissive and not automatic.

Demand for Ayurvedic Unani and Homoeopathic Doctors

2395. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India is of the opinion that the country has more than enough doctors and medical colleges;

(b) whether Government are aware that the country produces 18000 doctors a year while there is need for 40,000 doctors per year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of doctors in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems of medicines; and

(d) when this is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The President of the Medical Council of India is reported to have voiced this opinion in his personal capacity. This does not reflect the views of the Government.

(b) As per imformation available with the Government, the number of Allopathic medical graduates produced every year is between 11,000 and 13,000. The annual requirement of doctors has not been computed.

(c) and (d) There is no specific Central Scheme for increasing the number of seats in Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy Colleges.